

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the staff on this date.

Facility: Commonwealth Edison Company
 Quad Cities Nuclear Plant
 Units 1 and 2
 Docket Nos. 50-254
 50-265
 Cordova, IL 61242

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 _____ Notification of Unusual Event
 _____ Alert
 _____ Site Area Emergency
 _____ General Emergency
xx Not Applicable

Subject: BOWED SPENT FUEL STORAGE RACKS

The licensee informed Region III (Chicago) that three high density fuel storage racks installed at the Quad Cities Station do not meet the design criteria for spacing between the installed racks because of a bowing condition. The separation criteria, intended to prevent contact between the racks during a seismic event, require a 3-inch separation. The bowing condition has reduced the separation to about 2-1/2 inches.

Joseph Oats Corporation, manufacturer of the racks, has reanalyzed the seismic response of the racks and concluded that a 2-1/2 separation is acceptable for fully loaded racks and partially loaded racks with a symmetrical distribution of the fuel assemblies.


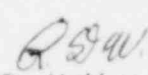

One rack at Quad Cities is fully loaded; a second is partially loaded and the fuel has been rearranged in a symmetrical array; and the third is empty.

Region III is considering the generic potential of the bowing condition. Joseph Oats Corporation has supplied storage racks to at least two other sites - Point Beach and Oconee. The Point Beach resident inspector and the Region II (Atlanta) office have been notified. The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has also been advised of the Quad Cities rack bowing.

Neither Region III nor the licensee plans to issue a news announcement.

The State of Illinois will be advised.

Region III was notified of the bowing condition on October 15, 1982. Subsequent information was obtained on October 18. This information is current as of 2:30 p.m. (CDT), October 18, 1982.

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